

Soviets Deploying Big MIRV Missiles

DEFENSE, From A1

States now has confirmed evidence that the largest of the new Soviet missiles, the SS-18, has started being deployed. This weapon—the largest of its kind in the world—can carry up to eight warheads, each many more times powerful than U.S. MIRVs.

The SS-18, however, has also been tested frequently in a single warhead version. But Schlesinger said that, as these new deployments begin, "inherent MIRV capabilities" would be expected.

This description could be important, because while it is impossible to tell for sure what kind of warhead is atop each missile, the United States has maintained that any missile that is tested with MIRV should be assumed to be carrying it for purposes of counting weapons under the proposed new arms accord.

There are also indications that a smaller new MIRVed missile, the SS-19, which can carry six warheads and is still much bigger than the triple-warhead U.S. Minuteman ICBM, is also beginning to be placed in underground silos, he said.

The Soviet developments came as the White House announced yesterday that U.S. and Soviet negotiators will meet again in Geneva Jan. 31 to try to implement the proposed accord developed at the November summit meeting, and possibly to begin talks aimed at reducing missile levels below 1,320.

The revelations also come a few weeks before the Pentagon budget goes to Capitol Hill.

The concern over high Soviet MIRV levels is that they might eventually threaten—or appear to threaten—to knock out the 1,000 land-based U.S. missiles in a surprise attack.

Though such an attack is viewed as incredibly risky and unlikely, the possibility remains a spur to the arms race.

A Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee yesterday released previously secret testimony in which Schlesinger presented estimates on why the United States, in his view, should have the ability to respond to such an attack in kind: by attacking Soviet missile silos rather than retaliating against cities.

In comparison with an all-out Soviet attack on this country, which might kill 100 mil-

lion people, Schlesinger estimated that a Soviet attack against all our missile and bomber bases would kill 6 million people at most.

While he stressed that this was still a highly improbable and irrational course for a Soviet leader to take, and the level of casualties was not to be taken lightly, he sought to make the point that it would be much worse if the United States had no option out to attack Soviet cities in return, because American cities would then be more likely to free second-wave Soviet attack.

Pressed on the question of whether U.S. military action could be carried out in a new oil crisis, Schlesinger told the press conference that from a practical standpoint, such action was "feasible."

But he stressed four different times that "we do not anticipate that the necessity will arise" to use force.

In other points:

- Schlesinger defended the continuing sale of arms to oil-rich nations such as Saudi Arabia as vital to continued good U.S. relations and influence with those countries.

- Schlesinger sharply criticized North Vietnam's military push in the south, and said it would be a "serious error on the part of the United States, and, I believe, a serious moral lapse for us to contemplate the semi-abandonment of an ally by failure to provide them with the appropriate financial resources."

- As for President Ford's pledge for government fiscal restraint, Schlesinger said he was sure the President did not mean to cut back defense spending, which will amount to about \$95 billion next year. About \$1 billion would be saved by the restrictions on cost-of-living increases, to 5 per cent, but Schlesinger said he wasn't sure how much the military's oil bill would go up due to the new import taxes.

For the Record

The following are excerpts from Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger's news conference Tuesday.

Q: Mr. Secretary, two questions relating to your reported remarks yesterday, about the CIA investigation. In alluding to the misdemeanors that you suggested go back—a few of them that go back many years, could you tell us, one, whether you found them still going on when you got there and took action to stop them. And secondly, could you perhaps provide some greater illumination for us as to the scope of these types of activities that are more

A: . . . all bureaucracies have a tendency to stray across the line with regard to actions which particularly in the acute vision represented by 20-20 hindsight would seem to be inappropriate. There were a number of activities that have occurred at the Agency over the course of the lifetime of the Agency that indeed, in retrospect, are to be regretted. They were inappropriate. Whether or not they were illegal is a question that I would prefer to leave to the lawyers. You mentioned the question of the scope, and I think that in relation to historical standards that there were not activities in such number or so surprising as to be a source of national turmoil . . .

Q: At any time did the CIA maintain files, as far as you know, on the order of 10,000 American citizens?

A: The question, I think, is directed to whether or not the CIA inappropriately maintained files on that number of citizens, because files are generated in a variety of ways. They can be generated by overseas activities. The Agency has a responsibility for the gathering of foreign intelligence and where there are contacts between Americans and foreigners overseas, that leads quite appropriately to the generation of information. The question, I think, is directed towards massive surveillance activities in the United States and to the extent that that is tied to 10,000 files, that story is overblown.